

REMARKS

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-15, 17 and 18 are all the claims pending in the application. Claim 16 is canceled by this amendment.

I. Objection to the Drawings

The Examiner has objected to the drawings for the reasons set forth on page 2 of the Office Action. In particular, the Examiner asserts that the feature recited in claim 16 is not shown in the drawings. As noted above, Applicant has canceled claim 16. Accordingly, Applicant kindly requests that the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

II. Objections to the Specification

The Examiner has objected to the specification for the reasons set forth in item 2 on page 3 of the Office Action. Applicant submits herewith a substitute specification and abstract which address the Examiner's objections in item 2 and include additional editorial amendments that have been made for grammatical and general readability purposes. No new matter has been added. Also enclosed is marked-up copy of the original specification and abstract showing the changes incorporated into the substitute specification and abstract.

In addition, the Examiner has objected to the specification in item 3 on page 3 of the Office Action because the Examiner believes that the specification does not provide proper antecedent basis for the limitations set forth in claims 4, 10 and 16. In response, Applicant notes that page 14, lines 9-12 of the original specification explicitly recite the features set forth in

claims 4 and 10, and therefore, Applicant submits that the specification provides proper antecedent basis for the limitations set forth in claims 4 and 10. Regarding claim 16, Applicant notes that this claim has been canceled by this amendment.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the objections to the specification.

III. Objections to the Claims

The Examiner has objected to claims 1-18 for the reasons set forth on pages 3-6 of the Office Action. Applicant has amended these claims in an accordance with the Examiner's suggestions so as to overcome the Examiner's objections. Applicant has also made additional editorial amendments to improve the U.S. form of the claims. In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that the objections to the claims be reconsidered and withdrawn.

IV. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Applicant has amended the claims in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions so as to overcome this rejection. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

V. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 1-18 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the objections and 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph,

rejection, as noted above. As discussed above, Applicant has amended claims 1-18 so as to overcome the objections and the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, rejection. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-18 are in condition for allowance, an indication of which is kindly requested.

VI. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may best be resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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